

## Technical Service Bulletin

### HAMMERHEAD – CHEST LOBE FASTENER TEARING.

<b>ISSUE DATE:</b>	June 18, 2014	<b>TSB NUMBER</b>	TSB-14-006
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### HAZARD / URGENCY RATING

	<b>DANGER – Injury possible if TSB not observed or followed</b>
<b>X</b>	<b>WARNING – Product damage possible if TSB not observed or followed</b>
	<b>CAUTION – Essential issue affecting operation, service, or parts</b>
	<b>INFORMATIONAL – Advisory which may be of interest</b>

#### APPLICATION:

This Technical Service Bulletin (TSB) applies to Hammerhead Life Preservers with the following part numbers, prior to serial numbers:

6760, Life Preserver, Hammerhead, SF	SN: 6760-14-001
67000, Life Preserver, Tactical, Hammerhead	SN: 67000-14-001
67003, Life Preserver, Hammerhead, Black, Standard	SN: 67003-14-027
67004, Life Preserver, Hammerhead, Black, Quick Ejector Harness,	SN: 67004-14-001
67006, Life Preserver, Hammerhead, Black, CSF,	SN: 67006-14-1083

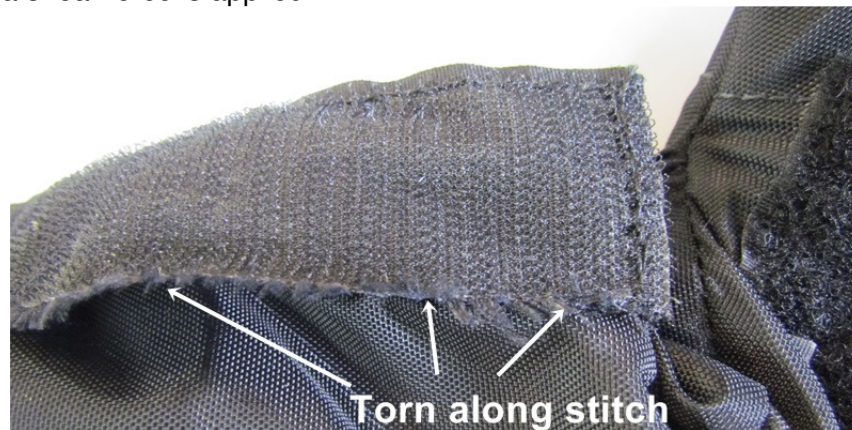
#### SUMMARY:

Exposure to chlorinated water (pool water) has been found to have a detrimental effect on hook and loop fasteners used on the above listed Hammerhead life preservers. The most notable area of this occurrence is the hook fastener side closure on the chest lobe which undergoes shearing forces upon life jacket inflation.



Figure 1, Side closures on chest lobes

Chlorinated water has been found to degrade the backing of the hook fastener, causing it to tear apart at the stitch when a shear force is applied.



**Figure 2, damaged hook fastener on side lobe closure**

To avoid this type of damage and prolong the life of the closures, users are to thoroughly rinse the life preserver with fresh clean water shortly after pool use. Allow life preserver to air dry prior to rearming and packing for service or storage.

Tulmar is implementing a two-fold product improvement on future production and on any maintenance repairs:

- Change provider to a hook and loop fastener tested and found to be more resilient to chlorinated water exposure. The new product meets mil specification A-A-55126, class 1, type 2 as did the previously used product.
- Modification to the stitch pattern and its placement when sewing the hook fastener to the life preserver cover.

#### **IMPACT:**

When the closure is torn, the user is unable to properly roll-up and close the life preserver, leading to possible user hindrances and presentation of snag points.

#### **ACTION:**

1. Thoroughly rinse the life preserver with fresh clean water shortly after pool use. Avoid allowing the life preserver dry after use prior to rinsing.
  - a) If the life preserver has dried, soak it for ten (10) minutes to re-dissolve chlorine. Agitate the life preserver under water to ensure proper cleaning of chlorine residue.
  - b) Thoroughly rinse the life preserver.
  - c) Allow life preserver to air dry prior to rearming and packing for service or storage. Do not use forced air. A circulating fan can be used to assist with air drying.
2. Inspect the hook and loop fasteners at the side lobes to ensure they are intact and solidly stitched to the cover.
3. Upon indication of hook and loop fasteners separating from the cover, return the Hammerhead life preserver to Tulmar Safety Systems for repair. The new fastener will be installed.
4. Record the jacket serial number and the action taken in a log book.



**CONTACT:**

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